



Progress Report

TRAFFIC SPEED REPORT NO. 73 TRUCK FEEGHT-SPEED STUDY

TO: K. B look, Director

Joint dightey Research Project

ilurierahez 1 1561

TROW.

H. L. Michael, Associate Director

Joint Highway Research Project

Project C-36 10D

Attached is Standic Speed Report Ho. 73 thich is the 1961. Thush weight-Speed Study. This annual study which is performed in acoperation with the State Highway Planning Survey Unit of the Indian State Highway Cormission for an annuated by Mr. A. J. Thany of tur staff.

A summization of the results of the rigilar challes made in previous years and the data for 1961 indicates that the trend of both single unit and rolling mit trucks has been one of grainally increasing speed and verght. The data for 1961 also indicated that the speeds of single vuit trucks are dependent upon the weight of the vehicle but then the speeds of multi-unit trucks do not very with the reight of the vehicle.

Copies of this report will be distributed to the Highway Figuring Unit, the Arran of Fiblic Roads and the Indiana State Police. The report is submitted for the record and for such release

Respectfully submitted,

2/2 127 miles

Rarold D. Michael

#FTT 5 # . 5

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TRAFFIC SPEED REPORT NO. 73 TRUCK WEIGHT-SPEED STUDY

by

K. J. Tharp

John Highway Research Project File No: 8-3-4 Project No: 0-25-10D

Performed in Cooperation

viith

The State Highway Planning Survey Indiana State Highway Commission

August 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 21, 22, 23, 25, 1961

Purdue University Lafayette, Indiana

November 8, 1961



TRAFFIC SPEED REPORT NO. 73 TRUCK WEIGHT - SPEED STUDY

Introduction

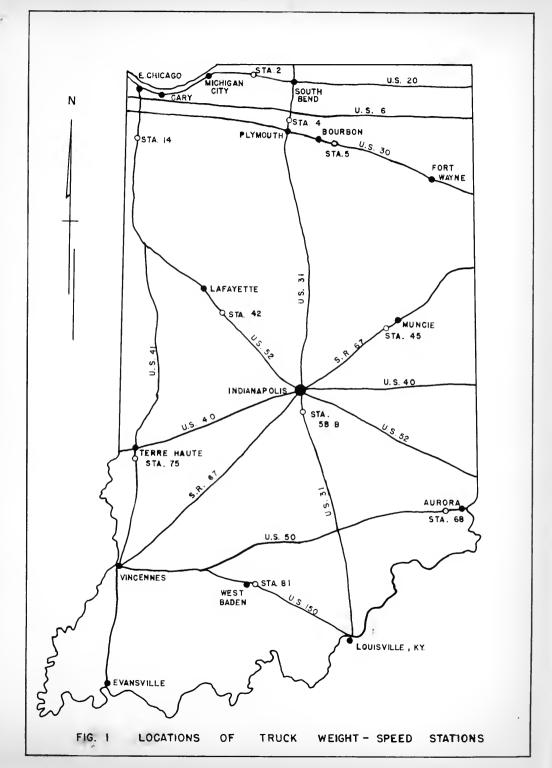
The seventeenth annual truck weight-speed study was conducted during the month of August 1961 by the Joint Highway Research Project of Purdue University in cooperation with the Highway Planning Survey Unit of the Indiana State Highway Commission. The Mighway Planning Survey Unit makes annual studies of truck weights, size, naterial hauled, etc. at twenty permanent truck-weight stations located throughout the state. The truck-weight speed study natches the weight of a truck, obtained by the Planning Unit with portable loadometer scales, and the observed speed of the same vehicle as recorded at a nearby speed station. This provides the basis for a correlation of truck speeds with truck weights.

Data from nine truck weight stations were used for the truck weight-speed study. These stations are shown on Figure 1 and are further described as follows:

Station	Highway	Location	Date of Obs.	No. of Lenes
45B	s. R. 67	1 mi. S.W. of Muncie	Aug. 3	2
5	U.S.30	1.3 ml. I. of Bourson	Aug. 9	2
<u>1</u> ;	U. S. 31	0,2 mi. S. of U.S. 6	Aug. 10	2
2	U. S. 20	0.3 mi. W. of S. R. 2	Aug. 11	7t
774	U. S. 41	0.5 mi. S. of S. R. 2	Aug. 14	ļŧ
42	U.S. 52	0.1 mi. S. of S. R. 28	Aug. 21	4
58B	U. S. 31	0.2 mi. S. of Southport Rd.	Aug. 22	<u>1</u> .
75	U.S.41	0.2 mi. S. of U.S. 41 Business Route	Aug. 23	<u>)</u>
81	U. S.150	0.5 mi. E. of S. R. 56	Aug. 25	2









The speed observations were made on level, tangent sections of road between one and three miles from the weight station. In all cases, sufficient distance was allowed for the trucks to regain normal cruising speed while minimizing opportunities for the vehicles to turn off the highway.

The speed data was collected by the writer and Mr. Preston Clayton. The analysis was prepared by the writer with the aid of members of the Traffic Engineering Roboratory staff.

Equipment and Field Procedure

The speed observations were made with an ELECTROMATIC Radar Speed Meter reading directly in miles per hour. The radar unit was checked for accuracy prior to field use. Figure 2 shows the adjustments required to correct the radar readings to true speeds. All observations have been revised so that true speeds are presented in this report. While in the field, uniformity of radar readings was verified by frequent checks with a 60-mile per hour tuning fork. At one station, the radar reading was also checked by comparing with a standardized car speedometer.

The rader unit was placed upon a box approximately four feet from the edge of the powerent and was oriented at a small angle with the direction of traffic flow. Concealment of the equipment is not possible upon modern highways having adequate shoulder width. To lessen the effect of driver observation of the speed meter, a car was parked so that on-coming traffic could not see the radar unit in sufficient time to reduce speed. Further deception was accomplished by feigning mechanical malfunction of the car by raising the hood. There was no apparent change in speed as traffic approached the speed station.

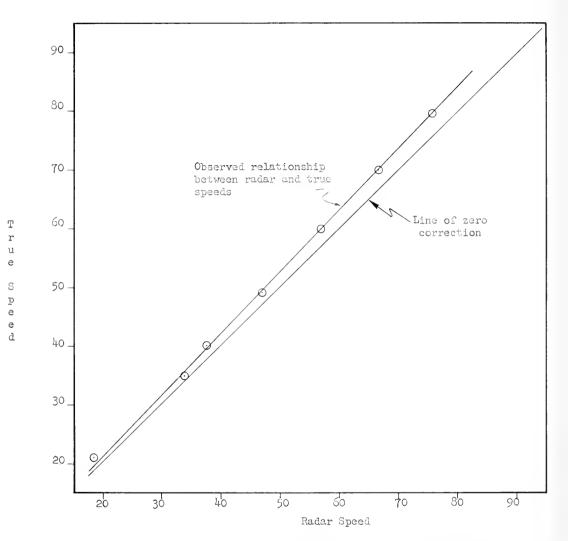


FIGURE 2. CALIBRATION CHART FOR THE ELECTROMATIC RADAR-SPEED METER

•		

normal

For use in this study only/highway truck speeds were desired.

Therefore, observations were made only on "free-flowing" trucks - that
is, not hampered by other traffic or by a change in speed resulting from
a turn or stop. This limitation caused a considerable reduction in data
on low capacity highways.

The speci stations were operated during the same hours as the truck weight station. During the four-hour period 8 a.m. to 12 noon, trucks moving in one direction along the highway were observed. During the afternoon, 12 noon to 4 p.m., observations were made on trucks traveling in the opposite direction.

Procedure of Analysis

For this enclysis all thicks are grouped into the general categories of single-unit or multi-unit (semi-trailer) vehicles.

In addition, the single-unit grouping is subdivided by weight into those having a gross veight of 5,000 pounds or more, and those weighing less than 5,000 pounds. This weight classification come pends to the existing Indiana speed limits for trucks. 65 miles per hour for "hight" (less than 5,000 pounds) trucks; 55 miles per hour for "heavy" (5,000 pounds or more) trucks on four-laws highways with a median of 20 foot or more; and 30 rikes per hour for heavy trucks on other highways.

Table I provides the speed and weight data of single-unit trucks while Table II presents similar data for multi-unit trucks. In these two tables, the data are also summarized by type of highway (2 or 4 lane), truck weight and totals for each.



	way	75					Tot	tal
97					Tot	al	Two-lan	
Station	581			5	Four-			-lane
keight(Ki		No. of		No. of		No. of Trucks	Ave.	No. of Trucks
0-4;		3	49.2	18	49.8	30	48.6	38
4-5		12	50.1	41	50.8	86	49.8	165
Total true		15		59	1.	 16	2	
Ave.Nt.(1				200	42:	27	42	93
Ave. Speed			49	.8	50	. 5	49	.6
Conf. Leve	9	5%		5%	9:			5%
Conf. Uppe	51	.2		2.0	52		50	.7
Limit Lowe	44	.0	47	1.6	49	.0	48	. 5
	80		72	.8	75.	.8	77	.8
5-8		25_	47.2	42	50.3	130	49.2	246
3-12		32	46.3	25	47.7	105	47.0	209
12-16		14	49-7	18	49.7	75	48.1	125
16-20		15	44.1	5	47.8	36	46.6	77
20-24		6	47.5	6	40.0	24	40.5	42
24-28		1	53.1	1	40.2	4	44.4	10
28 –3 2					48.5	2	42.8	- 4
32-36	3	1	55.2	1	55.8	2	52.2	3
36-40		3	39.7	1	42.7	77	42.7	7
40-44			42.8	3	44.4	5	44.4	9
44-48		1			43.9	1	41.3	2
48-52				-				
52-50							ļ	
56-60					51.1	1	51.1	
Total Truc		98		L02		392	1	735
Ave.wt.(1)			11,6	43	12,	1,22	12,	316
Ave. Speed	4	7.0		7,2		3.7		7.0
Conf. Leve				150		95%		95%
Conf. Lpps	4	8,5	48	.5	49	9.4	14	8.1
Lirit Lowe	4	5.5	45	5.9	48	3.0	4	7.1
% Empty	4	3.9	48	.0	4	3.1	3	9.7



TABLE I SINGLE-UNIT TRUCK SPEEDS (MPH)

				Tv	o-lane	Highway	γs						•		Fo	ır-lane	Highwa	ys					Tot	1
Station		58	5		ı		8		Tot Two-1			2	1.		4		58		7	75	Tot Four-	al Lane	Two-lan	ne and
Leight(Kips)		ko. of frucks		ko. of Trucks	Ave.	no, of Trucks	Ave. ಎಲೀಕಿಸಿ	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	wo. of Tmicks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	Ave.	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	wo. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	Ave.	No. of Trucks	Ave.	No. o: Trucks
<i>0−4;</i>	35.6	_1	_0_	0	42.3	2	46.5	_5	44.1	8	48.5	4_	43.9	1_1_	53.4	4	51.8	3	49.2	18	49.8	30	48.6	38
4-5	52.0	17_	52.1	8	47.3	29	47.4	25	48.8	79	55.5	8	50.7	10	53.4	15	40.6	12	50.1	41	50.8	86	49.8	165
Total trucks	-	18		_8		31		.30		87	_	12		11		19		15		59	1.	16	20	03
Ave. Nt. (1bs,	- 4	433	4	525	44	.06	. 42	286	4	380	4	433	4	381	4	263	40	12	4:	200	42	27	429	93
Ave. upmed	5	1.1	5	2.1	47	7.0	140	7.2	. 4	8.4_	5	3.2	50	0.0	5	3.4	47	.6	49	9.8	50	. 5	49	.6
Conf. Level		95%		95%	9	56		15%		95.		95%		95%		95%	_9	5%		95%	9	5%	9	5%
Conf. Upper	5/	.0	5	5.8	50	1.	49	.6	5	0.0	58	3.8	5:	3.6	5	6.6	51	.2	_ 5	2.0	52	.0	50	.7
Limit Lower	4.8	3.2	4	8.4	43	.9	4/	.8	_4	6.8	4'	7.0	40	5.4	. 5	0.2	44	.0	4	7.6	49	.0	48.	. 5
% Empty	86	.3	6	2.5	80	.6	7.	.3	8	0.4	. 8,	3.3	. 81	8.1	7	3.7	80	.0	7:	2.8	75	.8	77.	.8
5-8	49.6	. 31	49.8	16	46.2	50	47.8	19	47.9	116	52.0	11	51.9	28	54.3	24	49.0	25	47.2	42	50.3	130	49.2	246
3-12	48.9	31	40.2	25	44.3	23	44.8	25	46.2	104	48.9	15	46.0	14	51.0	19	40.0	32	40.3	25	47.7	105	47.0	209
12-16	45.1	16	48.8	10	44.1	10	45.9	- 8	45.6	50	49.0	10	49.9	13	51.8	20	47.1	14	49.7	18	49.7	75	48.1	125
16-20	48.5	9	47.0	11	42.7	12	43.9	9	45.5	41	47.1	6	51.6	6	50.0	- 4	47.2	15_	44.1	5	47.8	36	46.6	77
J0 - 24	47.8	. 5	50.5	2	37.3	. 3	47.0	8	40.3	18	41.3	2	45.9	5	51.5	5	44.0	6	47.5	6	40.0	24	46.5	42
24-28	38.7	_ 1	45.9	. 2	33.5	1	47.5	2	43.2	6			38.7	1	61.5	1	31.5	1	53.1	1	40.2	4	44.4	10
28-32							37.2	2	37.2	2				· ·	48.5	2					48.5	_2	42.8	4
32-30							44.7	1	44.9	1							56.3	_1_	55.2	1_	55.2	2	52.2	3
30-4C											45.9	2	47.0	1			40.1	3	39.7	1	42.7	7	42.7	7
40-44	47.0	1					43.5	3	44.4	4	46.4	2							42.8	3	44.4	5	44.4	9
44-48					38.7	1			38.7	_1_							43.9	1			43.9	1	41.3	2
48-52																								-
52-50					-																			
56-60													51.1	1							51.1	1	51.1	_ 1
Total Trucks		94		06	-	106		77	3	43		48		69		_75		98		102		392		735
Ave.kt.(1bs.	1 1:	1,172	14,		10,	430	13.8	300	12,1	70	. 14,	870	12	058	11	,616	12,	908	11,6	43	12,	22	12,	316
Ave. Speco		48.2		7.8		4.7	4:	.6	46	. 4	1	9.0		9.0		52.5	4	7.0	4	7.2	- 4	7.7	4	7.6
Conf. Level		95%		95%	-	95%		5%	. 9	5%		95%		95%		95k		95%		75/0	-	95,76		95%
Conf. Lpper		49.5	4	9.0		0.0	40	.7	47	.1		0.7		1.1		53.8	. 4	8,5	4,8	3.5	45	1.4	4.8	8.1
Limit Lower		46.9	4	6.6		3.4	44	5	45	.7		7.3		6.9		51.2	4	5.5	45	9	48	3.0	47	7.1_
% Empty		24.4	5	4.5	3	34.9	3:	5.1	35	.8		35.4		34.8		48.0	A	3.9	48	2.0	43	3.1	39	7.7

		ghway					tal	Two-la				
F	Stat:			75		1	-lane	Four-lane Ave. No. of				
	neig!	ve. seed	No.of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	жve. Speed	lo. of Trucks	speed Truc				
Γ	ε –1 2							35.1	2			
	12 -1 0	5.2	1	53.1	1	52.6	4	50.3	6			
Γ	16-20	0.8	5	48.2	4	50.2	19	50.0	28			
	20-21	1.3	11	51.7	12	50.6	67	49.6	99			
Γ	24,–28	9.2	26	50.1	13	50.6	123	49.8	178			
_	28-32		11	49.9	11	49.2	80	48.5	121			
	32-3		8	51.7	5	50.6	51	49.0	88			
Γ	30 <u>–4</u> .	4.6	7	48.0	3	51.6	37	51.1	54			
	40-4	0.9	12	49.0	1	51.4	52	50.1	70			
r	i	E.0	9	47.9	4	50.2	31	48.8	52			
	ι,ε - 5ί	7.0	11	53.2	3	49.7	46	48.8	66			
	52 -5 (12	46.8	5	48.9	64	48.5	95			
	56 -6		8	49.4	6	50.0	58	49.0	89			
$\overline{}$	06		6	48.5	4	50.0	28	48.2	52			
	04-68	2.8	3	43.4	2	50.0	22	49.0	43			
ľ	58 -7 :	7.6	3			47.6	19	47.3	34			
	72 -7 '		2	51.6	2	48.6	23	47.8	38			
-	75 – ≥.					49.3	8	46.0	23			
	80 - 8.		1			52.8	4	49.5	10			
- [8 8				1			45.9	1			
	8E - 92						1					
	92 - 98											
Г	90-10											
	Tota:		136		76		724	1,149				
	Ave.		269	37	,000	41	,605	42,5	95			
	άνe.		9.3		49.8		50.1	48.0				
L	Conf		95%		95%		95%	95%	<u> </u>			
	Conf	5	0.3		43.1		50.5	48.9)			
	Limit	4	8.3		41.7		49.7	48.3				
	& En	3	18.2		35.5		35.9	33.4				



TABLE II MULTI-UNIT THUCK SPEEDS (MPA)

				Tw	-lane	Highway	3								For	r-lane	Highway	rs					To	tal
Station	45					4		31		al lane		2	1.	4	4	2		eB.	.75	5		tal	Two-la	
weight (Kips)	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No.of Trucks		No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	l.o. of	Ave.	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	м v e. Эрееd	No.of Trucks	Ave. Speed	No. of Trucks	Ave. Speed	lo. of Trucks		No. o
E-17					36.1	2_			36.1	2													36.1	2
1:- 1 0					49.0	1	42.8	1	45.9	2			51.1	2	_		55.2	1	53.1	1	52.6	4	50.3	6
10~20	53.4	4_	48.0	3	44.9	2			49.7	9	45.1	2	50.8	4	53.1	4	50.8	5	48.2	4	50.2	19	50.0	28
20-24	50.2	7	45.8	12	40.6	10	46.5	3	47.5	32	47.1	11	50.5	18	51.3	15	51.3	11	51.7	12	50.6	67	49.6	99
24-28	49.0	18	46.4	13	47.1	10	48.1	14	48.0	55	49.6	22	51.8	33	51.6	29	49.2	26	50.1	13	50.6	123	49.8	178
28-32	50.4	17	47.0	19	40.8	12	46.3	5	47.9	53	46.5	14	50.0	21	50.2	11	49.6	11	49.9	11	49.2	68	48.6	121
32-36	50.4	9	45.6	17_	46.1	10	43.9	1	40.8	37_	45.9	9	53.4	14	50.3	15	51.4	8	51.7	5	50.6	51	49.0	88
30-4	53.4	8	44.7	5			49.0	4	49.9	17	43.5	3	51.0	15	53.2	9	54.6	7	48.0	3	51.6	37	51.1	54
40-44	47.8	5	44.6	10	44.9	1	52.1	2	40.3	18	49.3	10	51.4	12	53.2	17	50.9	12	49.0	1	51.4	52	50.1	70
44-42	48.4	6	47.0	10	45.2	4	50.0	1	46.7	21	52.3	5	51.5	12	51.1	1	48.0	9	47.9	4	50.2	31	48.8	52
4,8-52	50.3	4	46.4	13	44.9	1	44.9	2	40.9	20	40.0	11	51.0	12	50.5	9	47.0	11	53.2	3	49.7	46	48.8	66
52 -5 6	47.3	9	48.6	15	49.0	4	43.2	3	47.7	. 31	45.2	13	51.2	28	50.9	6	47.5	12	46.8	5	48.9	64	48.5	95
56-6.	49.4	9	46.3	14	45.9	3	47.2	5	47.3	31	47.2	12	53.1	21	51.5	11	44.1	8	49.4	6	50.0	58	49.0	89
0 -04	51.8	3	45.1	14	46.6	3	44.4	4	46.0	24	50.3	5	52.4	4	51.4	9	47.1	6	48.5	- 4	50.0	28	48.2	52
04-68	48.5	6	47.7	15	-	,			47.9	21	47.4	9	51.4	7	50.0	1	52.8	3	43.4	2	50.0	22	49.0	43
68-72	50.0	2	47.4	9	44.2	3	45.9	1	47.0	15	45.3	7	50.8	4	1.8.1	5	47.6	3	42.4		47.6	19	47.3	34
72-7'	48.8	L	44.3	6	48.0	4	48.0	1	46.7	. 15	43.8	13	50.0	3	46.9	3	45.4	2	51.6	2	48.6	23	47.8	38
76-8	48.0	1	48.5	6	39.4	6	44.9	2	44.3	15	47.7	4	52.1	1	50.4	3	32.7		,,,,,	-	49.3	8	46.0	23
80-84		-	47.3	6					-47.3	6			55.2	1	51.5	2	53.1	1			52.8	4	49.5	10
94 - 88			45.9	1					45.9	1			-		,_,,		,,,,,				/=		45.9	1
85-92		_																					1	
z=-96								1																
96-10C																								1
Total Trucks		112		188		76		49		425		150		212		150		136		76		724	1.1	149
Ave. kt.(Its.)	41.	058	48,	546	40,	111	40	849		283	40	546	41	.349	40	.575	-	269	37	,000	41	1,605	42.5	
Ave. Speed		9.8		6.5		5.7		46.9		7.3		47.9	-	51.6		51.4		9.3		49.8		50.1	48.6	
Conf. Level		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%	957	6
Conf. Upper	50	0.7	1	7.1	4	7.0		48.0	- 4	7.5		48.7		52.3		52.1		0.3		43.1		50.5	48.9	7
Limit Lower	4	8.9		5.9_		4.4		45.8		7.1		47.1		50.9		50.7		8.3		41.7		49.7	48.3	
à Empty	3	1.2		22.3	3	5.5		40.8		9.1		28.6		36.8		40.B		8.2		35.5		35.9	33.4	



Summary of Results

From Tables I and II the following observations are made: Single-unit trucks less than 5,000 lbs.-

	2-lane hwys.	L-lane hwys.	all hwys.
No. of vehicles observed	87	116	203
Average speed (mph)	48.4	50.5	49.6
Average weight (lbs.)	4380	4227	4293
Single-unit trucks over 5,000]	lbs.~		
No. of vehicles observed	343	392	735
Avorage speed (mgh)	46.4	48.7	47.6
Average weight (lbs.)	12,196	12,422	12,316
Multiple-units (semi-trailers)	manuscript .		
Wo. of vehicles observed	425	724	1,149
Average speed (mph)	47.3	50.1	43.6
Average weights (1bs.)	44,283	42,605	42,595

Table THT reveals that 2% of the light trucks exceeded the logal 65 mph speed limit and only 1% exceeded the 'enforceable" speed limit of 70 mph. On two lane highways, slightly over 23% of heavy trucks and semi-trailers exceeded the legal speed limit of 50 mph. The percentage exceeding the enforceable speed limit (55 mph) was 8½% for heavy single-units and nearly 5% for semis. On four-lane highways, approximately 17% of the heavy trucks and 19½% of the semis exceeded the legal 55 mph speed limit. On this type of highway only 5½% of the heavy trucks and 2½% of the semis traveled faster than the 60 mph "enforceable" speed.

A comparison of average speeds and weights for the last 14 years is presented in Table IV. The average speed of single-unit trucks has shown a tendency to increase since 1948. During the last

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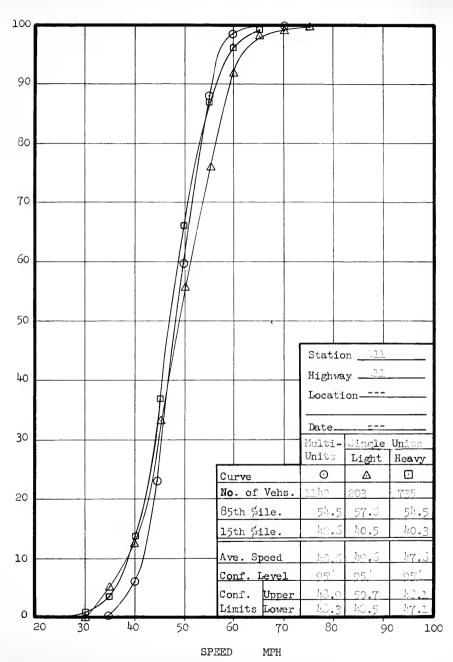
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The second contract of the second second contract of the second cont	Service and the second	Average Speed of Single Unit	Avorage 47 775 of Single-Unite	Number of Multiple-Inly Trucks	Average Syred or Maled-Terb Tracks	Average Neighbor Of Multi-Union 3

five years, the average weights have also apparently increased from less than 9,000 lbs. to above 10,000 lbs. The average speed and weight of multi-unit trucks have also increased considerably during this period of time. Semi-trailer weights appear to have a fairly constant upward trend. Figures 6 and 9 outray graphically the apparent upward trend in the 85th percentile assed.

The cumulative frequency distribution curves indicate that multi-unit trucks travel with less speed remiction between bridges that the single-unit vehicles. This is disclosed by the observes of the central portion of the frequency curve and too natural speed differential between the 15th and 85th percentile. The gradues worldbility in speeds is the light single-unit trade.

the diagrams of Figures 1994 7. The points plotters are every, sympleton a weight of satisfact on while the lines are dead and from individual speeds as observed in the right. For simple-unit tracks on Tokin two-and four-lines highways, the shope of the photosal land is administrately different track sero, who enclosing that the speeds early consulate with the vehicle weight. The slope of the line for multi-unit rehicles no not significantly differ at from sero thereby indicating no evidence of a relationship between track weight and truck speed for this group.





PERCENTILE

FIGURE 3. CULULATIVE FRA ULICY CURVES FOR ALL HIGHLING



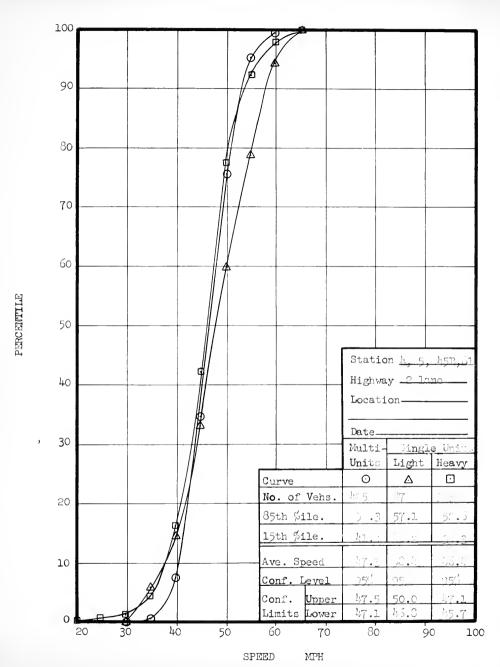


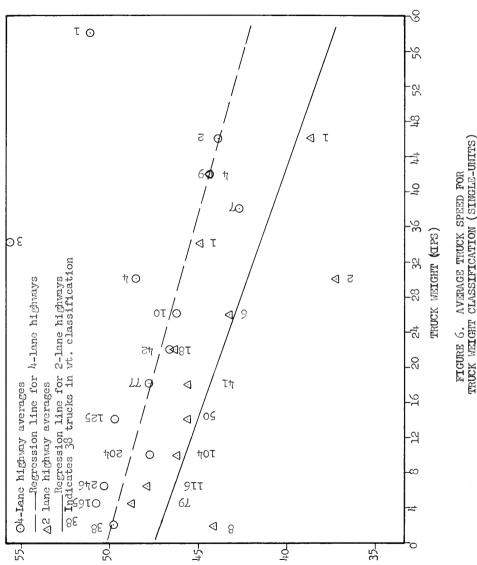
FIGURE A. CUMULATIVE FRIGUENCY CURVES
FOR TWO-LAME HIGH MYL



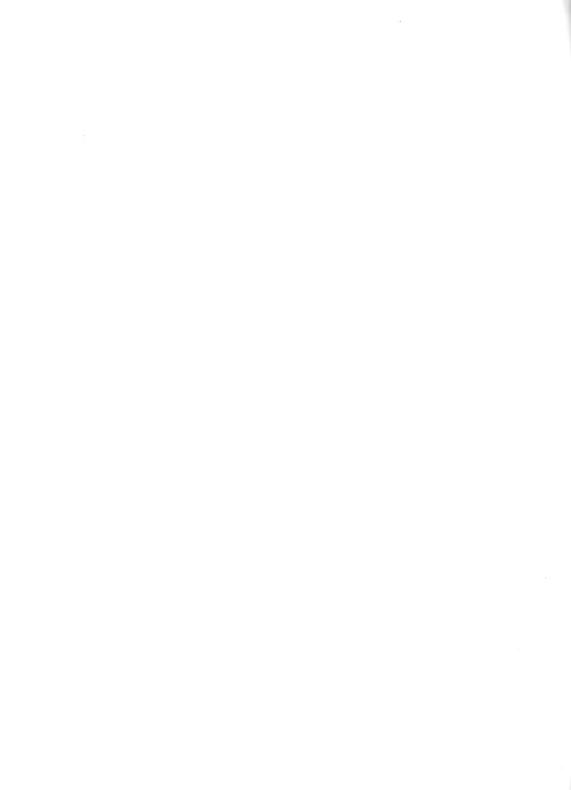
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FIGURE 5. CUMULATIVE FRACULTICY CURVES FOR FOUR-LAME HIGHMAYS





AVERAGE TRUCK SPEED (MPH)



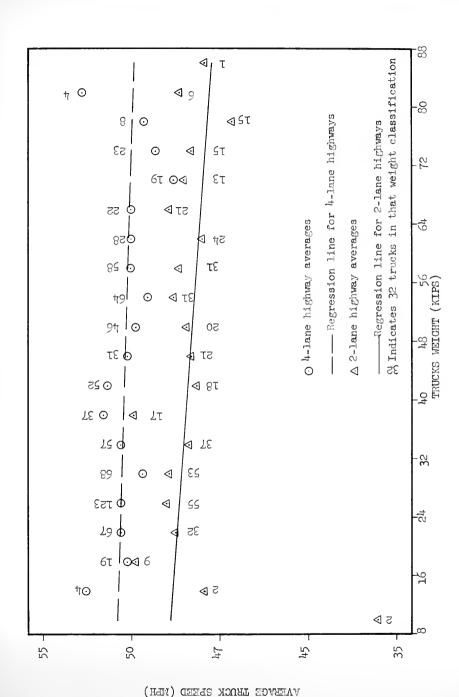
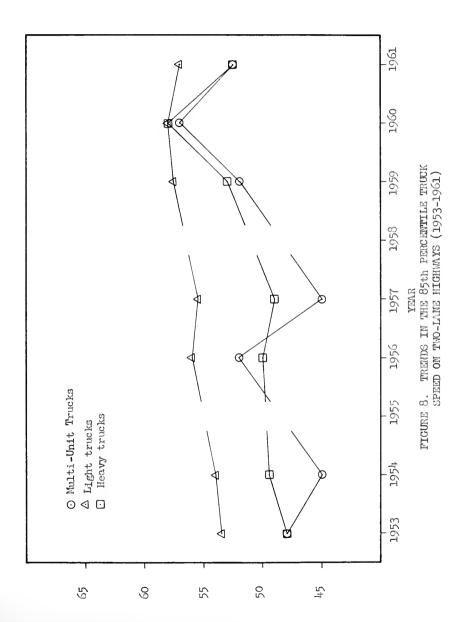
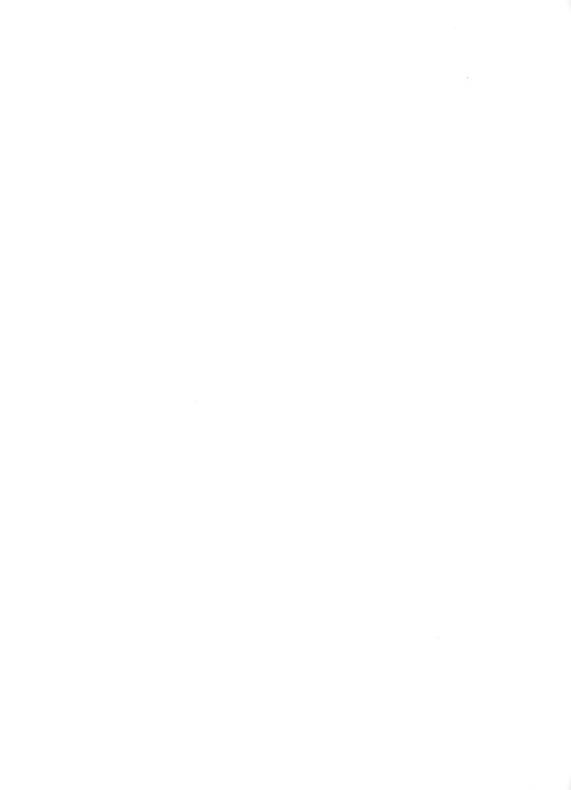


FIGURE 7. AVERAGE TRUCK SPEED FOR TRUCK WEIGHT CLASSIFICATION (MULFIL-UNITS)





85% PERCENTILE SPEED (MPH)



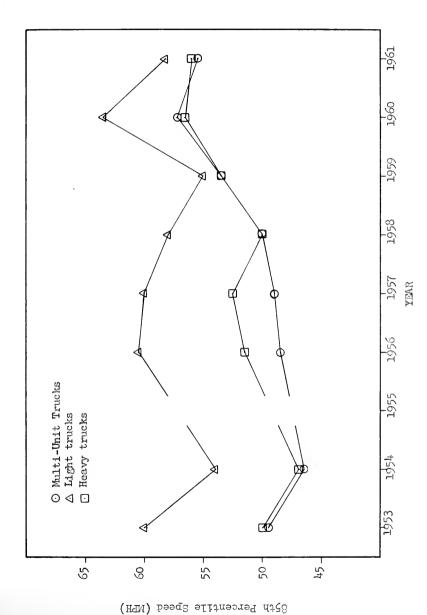


FIGURE 9. TREND IN THE 85th PERCENTILE TRUCK SPEED ON FOUR-LANE HIGHWAYS (1953-1961)





